

# Behind the Star

Alexandria Sheriff's Office Quarterly Newsletter  
Fourth Quarter 2012



## Sheriff's Office Celebrates Its Volunteers

The Alexandria Sheriff's Office paid tribute to its dedicated volunteers at the annual Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon on Thursday, October 25. More than 200 volunteers provide specialized assistance and outreach to inmates at the William G. Truesdale Adult Detention Center, offering religious services, Bible study, substance abuse recovery programs, tutoring, yoga and even musical instruction, and this special event honored their contributions.

Approximately 60 volunteers attended the luncheon at the Faith Activities Center of First Baptist Church. Lieutenant Deborah Vaughan, who served as emcee, and Cheryle Echane, the Volunteer Programs Coordinator, worked closely to ensure the luncheon was a success, with support from other Inmate Services colleagues. The audience of volunteers and staff enjoyed watching a video that Ms. Echane created showing volunteers at work in the jail and expressions of appreciation from the inmates.

Bettina Deynes, the new Human Resources Director for the City of Alexandria, gave the keynote speech and then joined Sheriff Dana Lawhorne in presenting each volunteer with a certificate of appreciation and a gift of an embroidered fleece blanket. In his closing remarks, Sheriff Lawhorne expressed his deep gratitude to the corps of talented and committed volunteers and to the staff who organized the luncheon.





## ASO Donates Food, Delivers Thanksgiving Meals

Following a month-long food drive, Community Relations Deputy Valarie Wright delivered boxes of nonperishable canned and dry goods to ALIVE!'s food program as part of an annual Sheriff's Office tradition. Deputy Wright led the drive among staff who donated food, like canned tuna and meat, jars of peanut butter, boxes of pancake mix, and breakfast cereals, as well as cash that was used to purchase more food.

On Monday, November 19, Deputy Wright (below) delivered several boxes of food to Beth Campbell, a volunteer with ALIVE!'s food program that aids almost 1,000 families in need who are referred by local social service agencies and member congregations. ALIVE! (ALexandrians InVolved Ecumenically) is a 501 (c)3 nonprofit organization of volunteers from more than 40 religious congregations and the community who work together to help those in need in Alexandria.

Then later that day, Deputy Wright and Deputy George Burnham (above right) assisted in Project Thanksgiving, an area-wide effort to provide families in need with complete Thanksgiving dinners to enjoy later that week. Deputies Wright and Burnham went to IBM in Gaithersburg to pick up 35



Thanksgiving dinners with turkeys and all the fixings and then delivered them to Hopkins House, an Alexandria charity that shared them with families in need.

The next day, Chief Deputy Tony DiCesare picked up eight additional dinners at Lockheed Martin in Manassas and delivered them to Hopkins House. Both IBM and Lockheed Martin provide funds to purchase the dinners and their employees arrange for the food purchases and meal coordination.



### Message from the Sheriff

As 2012 drew to a close, I was proud to recall the accomplishments of our Office, the outstanding service of our employees and the dedication of our volunteers.

This fall, we had the opportunity to salute those who support our work and our inmates. Dozens of dedicated volunteers were honored for their service to inmate programming at the William G. Truesdale Adult Detention Center where volunteers provide educational, spiritual and sobriety support so that inmates can make better choices upon their release.

When Hurricane Sandy threatened the East Coast, the Office helped Alexandria prepare with staff at the Emergency Operations Center and deputies assisting at sandbag distribution sites, like the one at George Washington Middle School where I was able to help out.

Finally, our staff continued its service to the community through youth mentoring and alcohol awareness programs, senior safety outreach, and by providing services to those in need through food donations and the distribution of winter coats to children.

I'm hopeful you will share my pride in the work your Sheriff's Office does. Thank you for partnering with us.

A handwritten signature in white ink on a dark background.





# Ten Deputies Promoted in Fall Ceremony

Sheriff Dana Lawhorne formally promoted ten deputies, the largest group to be promoted in nearly two decades, at a ceremony on Thursday, November 8 in the gym at the Sheriff's Office. Those promoted include a Chief Deputy and two Captains, as well as four Lieutenants and three Sergeants.

Says Sheriff Lawhorne, "The extensive experience and strong leadership of these talented men and women will not only greatly benefit those under their command but also the future direction of the Office."



At the ceremony, City Manager Rashad Young (above) gave the keynote speech and Edward Semonian, Clerk of the Alexandria Circuit Court, swore in the following deputies at their new rank:

- Chief Deputy Clarke Stearns
- Captain Dottie Pope
- Captain Shelbert Williams
- Lieutenant Brian DeSouza
- Lieutenant Mavis Thomas
- Lieutenant Deborah Vaughan
- Lieutenant Douglas Woehlke
- Sergeant Jarrod Overstreet
- Sergeant Larry Richardson
- Sergeant Waraphan Srikongyos

Several members of the Police and Fire Departments attended the ceremony, as did Deputy City Manager Michele Evans. After the ceremony, family members and colleagues celebrated with a potluck luncheon (right) organized by Sergeant Melissa Josiah.





## Inmate Work Detail

The Sheriff's Office Inmate Work Detail (IWD) helped to make Old Town look its most festive by decorating the King Street corridor with garland, wreaths and bows.



On Thursday, November 29, the IWD, under the supervision of Deputy George Wooden (above) and Deputy Shawn Buker (below), put seasonal greens on lamp posts for the Old Town Business and Professional Association (OTBPA).

The decorations remained until after the winter holidays when the IWD returned and removed them. The IWD has been providing this service to OTBPA since 2009.



## Inmates' Children Get Holiday Gifts, Warm Coats

Thanks to the generous support of Toys for Tots and Operation Warm, the Sheriff's Office was able to provide inmates' children with holiday gifts and, if needed, a new winter coat. On Tuesday, December 11, family members of approximately 50 inmates visited the Sheriff's Office and picked up new toys and coats for the inmates' children.

Each year, Toys for Tots provides the Sheriff's Office with donated toys so the children of inmates in the William G. Truesdale Adult Detention Center who cannot afford to purchase gifts would still receive a gift during holiday celebrations.

This past year Toys for Tots of Quantico provided approximately 200 new toys, including stuffed animals, dolls, cars, trucks, balls and games, and Operation Warm donated 60 new coats as part of its Coats for Kids campaign, marking the second year in a row that Operation Warm partnered with the Sheriff's Office to ensure that children in need



would have adequate outerwear during the cold winter months.

In the weeks leading up to the giveaway, Inmate Services staff contacted inmates to identify those who had children who could benefit. Eligible inmates then provided staff with the age and gender of the children, as well as the name of the family member or guardian who would be picking out the toys and coats.

## Inmates' Work Exhibited at Art on the Avenue

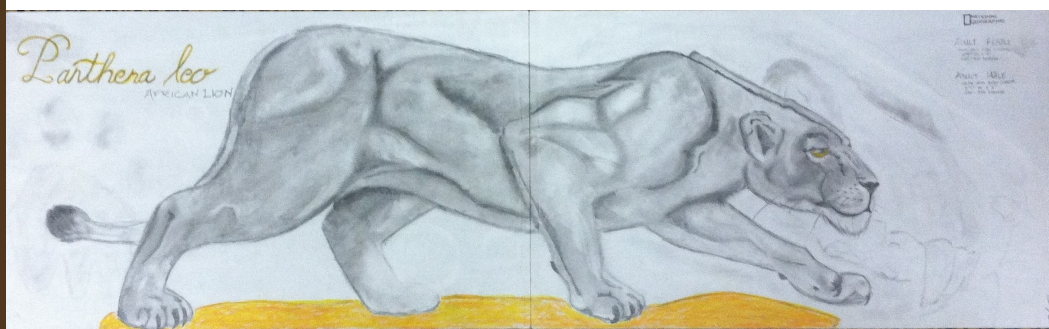
During the summer, inmate artists competed in an art show where fellow inmates voted for their favorites. The winning artwork from that competition was exhibited at Art on the Avenue on Saturday, October 6, and those attending the annual art and music festival in Del Ray had the opportunity to vote for their favorite.

More than 300 people voted and based on their ballots, Shyia Clark's drawing of a lion (below) took first place, Shaun Carlan took second and Donovan Morris took third.

Thanks to Pat Miller and the Alexandria



Commission for the Arts, artwork by inmates in an earlier competition was exhibited at the Mayor's Office at City Hall in the spring.





## Inmates Earn GEDs, Food Safety Certifications

On Thursday, December 6, Sheriff Dana Lawhorne and his staff hosted a graduation ceremony to honor the educational accomplishments of eight inmates at the William G. Truesdale Adult Detention Center.

Education coordinator Krista Sofonia presented Jose Cruz Argueta, Edsel Dugais, Erik Lacayo, Christopher Paulk and Sean Randolph with Certificates of Achievement for passing their General Educational Development examinations. The five wore caps and gowns and were cheered by visiting family members invited to attend the ceremony.

Ms. Sofonia thanked GED volunteers, including Mary Jane Malone of Del Ray and AnnMarie Almaguer, a graduate student at Marymount University who completed an internship at the Detention Center during the fall. With these graduates, a total of 18 inmates passed their GED exams in 2012.

Joseph Weeks of ORS Interactive joined Sheriff Lawhorne in congratulating Delane Galloway, Thomas Gupton and Darryl Wise for earning their ServSafe® Food Protection Manager Certification. The three inmates now hold a locally and nationally recognized certification which will make them more competitive candidates for restaurant and food service employment opportunities.

The eight-hour program, administered by ORS Interactive of Falls Church, covers food safety regulations and concepts, including time and temperature control, preventing cross-contamination, cleaning and sanitizing, safe food preparation, receiving and storing food, and methods of thawing, cooking, cooling and reheating food. Inmates in this program often gain experience by working in the Detention Center cafeteria. Including these three, a total of ten inmates earned ServSafe® certifications in 2012.



Above: (l-r) GED graduates Jose Cruz Argueta, Erik Lacayo, Sean Randolph, Edsel Dugais and Christopher Paulk in the Detention Center library. Below: ServSafe® graduates Darryl Wise, Thomas Gupton and Delane Galloway, with Joseph Weeks of ORS and Sheriff Dana Lawhorne.





## Alexandria Sheriff's Office:



In October, the City's Transportation & Environmental Services helped prepare for the winter by getting their winter weather equipment ready and practicing snow removal techniques at the annual Snow Rodeo. Sheriff Dana Lawhorne was among the City staff who took part in this friendly competition, earning an honorable mention for the crew cab snow plow truck event.



A proud T.C. Williams alum, Sheriff Dana Lawhorne was honored to be a part of the Scholarship Fund of Alexandria's "I Remember the Titans" campaign which features portraits of successful Titans to help raise financial support for the Fund.



The Alexandria Sheriff's Association participated in the City's Holiday Sharing program to help a local family in need with three school-aged children. The Department of Community and Human Services gave the ASA the kids' wish lists so they could select the best gifts. On Wednesday, December 12, Sergeant Lynn Oliver and ASA Vice-President Deputy Andrea Diaz delivered the gifts, as well as a supermarket gift card, to the family.



# In Touch With Our Community



On Friday, October 12, Sheriff Dana Lawhorne (front row, far left) joined Police Chief Earl Cook, retired Police Chief David Baker, Fire Chief Adam Thiel, members of the Alexandria Fire Department and other City officials at the annual Fire memorial service at Ivy Hill Cemetery. This day was especially solemn as all remembered the sacrifice of Paramedic Joshua Weismann just a few months earlier.



On Sunday, December 2, Sheriff Dana Lawhorne and other local “celebrity” book advisors attended the T.C. Williams English Department Book Fair at Barnes & Noble. A portion of that afternoon’s sales benefitted the T.C. Williams English Department, headed by Mark Eaton seen here with his wife Brooksie Koopman and Sheriff Lawhorne.



The Alexandria Gay & Lesbian Community Association held its annual dinner for Alexandria’s first responders at First Station 209 on Tuesday, October 2. The Sheriff’s Office, Police Department and Fire Department were treated to a delicious spread and great company and conversation.



# City Service Awards

On Thursday, November 29, the City of Alexandria held its annual Employee Public Service Awards ceremony at the Lee Center to recognize those who achieved significant anniversaries in 2011. Mayor William D. Euille, members of City Council and City Manager Rashad Young joined department heads in recognizing the service of Alexandria's dedicated employees, including more than three dozen who serve with the Sheriff's Office.

Several Sheriff's Office employees attended the ceremony and Sheriff Dana Lawhorne thanked and congratulated each of them. Rose Barnes who works in the Administrative Service Bureau (seen in photo at right with Sheriff Lawhorne and Mayor William D. Euille) was recognized for her 35 years of service with the City.

The following were also honored for their service to the Office and to the people of Alexandria:

## *30 Years of Service*

Chief Deputy Tim Gleeson  
Deputy Timothy Thorne

## *25 Years of Service*

Director Shennell M. Coit  
Deputy Keith A. Crane  
Lieutenant Brian DeSouza  
Ms. Liz Dixon  
Sergeant Brian Grenadier  
Ms. Gloria G. Hicks  
Deputy Isaac J. Lovitt  
Deputy William L. Morgan



Lieutenant Monique Rea  
Sergeant Joe Pankey  
Captain Doug Schuler  
Captain Wendy Webb  
Mr. Rony Wise

## *20 Years of Service*

Deputy Marvia Anderson  
Sergeant Candra L. Callicott  
Deputy Michael R. Cole  
Ms. Cindy Kapetanias  
Deputy Pedro J. Ocasio  
Deputy Earlene S. Pierre

## *15 Years of Service*

Ms. Amy Bertsch  
Ms. Gladys Y. Cox  
Ms. Debra F. Defreitas  
Deputy George R. Gray  
Deputy Treska V. Lytle  
Deputy Robert H. Rowland  
Deputy Arlene B. Vollin  
Lieutenant Douglas R. Woehlke

## *10 Years of Service*

Ms. Michelle C. Frier  
Deputy Alicia A. Green  
Deputy Manuel Lee

## *5 Years of Service*

Ms. LaTanya Ervin  
Deputy Juan F. Guzman  
Deputy Jeffrey M. Hines  
Deputy Kha V. Le  
Deputy Quentin R. Wade



Then Vice-Mayor Kerry Donley joined Police Chief Earl Cook and Sheriff Dana Lawhorne in recognizing the dedication of the City's longtime employees.



# Sheriff's Office and Association Donate School Supplies

The Sheriff's Office collected school supplies for Alexandria City Public Schools students in need and delivered them to the ACPS Central Office on Monday, October 15. Community Relations Deputy Valarie Wright (at right with Deputy Gloria Wright) organized the supply drive, collecting donations for notebooks, paper, pencils, pens, crayons, glue, rulers, scissors, and hand sanitizer from Sheriff's Office staff and a \$250 donation from the Alexandria Sheriff's Association. In addition, the Sheriff's Office donated 50 backpacks. An ACPS social worker who serves as the homeless liaison arranged for the supplies to be distributed to children and youth who need them most, including homeless students.



## Outreach to Seniors

The Sheriff's Office continued in its outreach and support to the City's seniors, partnering with Senior Services of Alexandria to promote safety and specialized services.

On Saturday, October 13, Deputy Valarie Wright (below right) and Deputy Cassandra Branch represented the Sheriff's Office at Senior Law Day. They shared information about Project Lifesaver, a safety initiative to help locate people who wander due to Alzheimer's, autism and other related conditions. They also distributed safety information, including a "File of Life" that contains important information to assist first responders.



Then on Thursday, October 18, Senior Services of Alexandria hosted its annual Meals on Wheels volunteer appreciation luncheon and recognized Sheriff's Office volunteers who make deliveries to home-bound seniors. Janet Barnett, Executive Director, welcomed Chief Deputy Tim Gleeson, Chief Deputy Clarke Stearns and Deputy Juan Guzman (middle right), who represented the volunteers and also directed traffic at the event which was held at The Fountains at Washington House.

During the program, Dolores Viehman, the Meals on Wheels coordinator, presented Chief Gleeson with a box of cupcakes for him to share with Sheriff's Office staff.





## Retirements

Three dedicated members of the Sheriff's Office retired during the last quarter of 2012.



Lieutenant Janice Parker, Watch Commander for Team 1B, first joined the Office on May 2, 1986 and retired on October 1.



Deputy Cheryl Minniefield, most recently assigned to Team 1A, joined the Office on March 18, 2000 and retired effective November 10.



Inmate Classification Counselor Liz Dixon, who began her career with the Office on October 6, 1986, retired on December 31.

Congratulations and best wishes to all three!

## Four Employees Complete CIT Training

Four members of the Sheriff's Office graduated from the Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) training academy on Friday, December 7. Civilians LaTanya Ervin, Lori Kaplan and Desha Hall-Winstead, Deputy Ceaena Lewis and members of the Police and Fire departments were recognized at a graduation ceremony at police headquarters following a week of training.

CIT was developed in collaboration with the Department of Community and Human Services, Police Department, and Sheriff's Office to help improve staff interactions and outcomes with persons with mental illness and substance use disorders. Through their 40 hours of training, CIT members learn skills such as suicide intervention, verbal de-escalation techniques, the role of the family in the care of a person with mental illness, and legal training in mental health and

substance abuse issues. Since the program began in 2010, more than 50 Sheriff's Office employees have completed CIT training and are able to use their specialized skills in the William G. Truesdale Adult Detention Center, at the Alexandria Courthouse and in the community.

Below: Undersheriff Tony Davis joined new CIT members LaTanya Ervin, Lori Kaplan, Ceaena Lewis and Desha Hall-Winstead at their graduation ceremony. (Courtesy of the Alexandria Police Department)



## New Deputies Sworn In

On Friday, November 16, six new Alexandria deputy sheriffs were sworn in at the Alexandria courthouse.

Clerk of the Circuit Court Edward Semonian (left) administered the oath of office to (l-r) Deputy Jessica Duenas, Deputy Joseph Bowman, Deputy Christopher Boucher, Deputy Steven Shillingburg, Deputy Patrick Crossey,

and Deputy Richard Garcia, and then Sheriff Dana Lawhorne issued their badges and credentials.

The recruits began training at the William G. Truesdale Adult Detention Center. Some have already started training at the Northern Virginia Criminal Justice Training Academy.





## Deputies Graduate from Academy

Seven deputies celebrated their graduation from the Northern Virginia Criminal Justice Training Academy at a ceremony at George Mason University on Friday, December 21. Their graduation followed nearly six months of deputy and law enforcement training that covered emergency vehicle operation, firearms training, defensive tactics, jail and courthouse procedures, crash investigation, basic legal training and other important areas.

Sheriff Dana Lawhorne congratulated (l-r) Deputy Curran Thorne, Deputy Deon Eaddy, Deputy Israr Haq, Deputy Keith



Scott, Deputy Ryan Stearns, Deputy Julio Ocasio, and Deputy Fellman Cabero, members of the 127th Session.

## Teaming Up for Project Sticker Shock



The Sheriff's Office was proud to partner with the Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition of Alexandria, Alexandria Police Department, and others for Project Sticker Shock. On Saturday, October 27, students from T.C. Williams, accompanied by adults, visited 60 stores in Alexandria and placed "STOP" stickers on multi-packs of alcohol to remind adults that it is illegal to purchase alcohol for those under 21.

T.C. Williams students Nancy Martinez and Diamond Harris emceed the press conference, and Debbie Sausville, a Victim Advocate for MADD Northern Virginia, discussed the impact of her stepdaughter's

fatal accident after an adult had illegally supplied her with alcohol.

After the press conference, Community Relations Deputy Valarie Wright escorted three 10th graders from T.C. Williams (left) to neighborhood markets, drug stores and supermarkets to place stickers on packs of beer, wine coolers and other alcoholic drinks. With cooperation from store management, the volunteers stickered dozens of packages throughout Alexandria.



In addition to placing stickers on multi-packs of alcohol, volunteers applied decals at the entrances of stores to alert customers considering the purchase of alcohol for anyone underage.

## Deputies Receive Optimist Awards

The Optimist Club of Alexandria honored Deputy Mark Jessup and Deputy Brian Bell, as well as Alexandria Police Officer Marcus Downey, with the Respect for Law Award at a luncheon on Wednesday, October 24. The deputies were recognized for their outstanding service and in particular for their efforts for young people.

Deputy Jessup (below) has been a dedicated mentor to students at Charles Barrett Elementary for the past three years. The first member of the Sheriff's Office to volunteer as a school mentor, he meets weekly with his mentee to encourage positive choices, high self-esteem and academic achievement.



Deputy Bell, who was unable to attend, was recognized as a committed volunteer at East of Anacostia, a non-profit organization dedicated to improving the lives of youth and children. Deputy Bell spends much of his personal time mentoring young people who face significant challenges in their daily life by supporting their academic progress, supervising their completion of homework and school assignments, and organizing educational outings.



# Sandy Preparation and Response

During the last week of October, the East Coast braced itself for Hurricane Sandy. In Alexandria, the City activated the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and encouraged residents to be thoroughly prepared for storm damage, flooding and loss of power. Commanders with the Sheriff's Office helped staff the EOC and coordinate public safety response.

The City distributed hundreds of sandbags in Del Ray and in Old Town, and the Sheriff's Office assisted in that effort. Deputies, like Deputy Juan Guzman (upper right), provided security and directed traffic to ensure that sand bag distribution remained orderly.

The storm did cause trees to fall in some neighborhoods, knocking out power to thousands of customers in Northern Virginia. Deputies, including Deputy Robert Gilmore (right), patrolled in those neighborhoods left dark and increased their presence in Old Town, Del Ray, Beverley Hills and the West End during Halloween trick-or-treating.



# Sheriff, Deputies March in Scottish Walk

The Sheriff's Office participated in the 2012 Scottish Walk on Saturday, December 1. Sheriff Dana Lawhorne, the Honor Guard and the Motor Team were proud to take part in this annual tradition in Old Town.

This event marked the first time that the Sheriff's Office Motor Team, comprised of Lieutenant Brian DeSouza (below with Sheriff Lawhorne) and Sergeant Anthony Zygmunt, participated in a parade.



## Mentor Program Continues

The Sheriff's Office is once again participating in the Public Safety Partnership Program at Charles Houston Elementary with six staff members taking part in this mentoring program this year.

In early October, new and returning mentors, including both sworn and civilian staff from the Sheriff's Office, Police Department and other public safety agencies, attended orientation with a school social worker and the following week they met their students for the first time.

Throughout the school year, mentors have been dropping by Charles Barrett to have lunch with their mentees or to spend time together after school. They also organize special group activities outside of school.



## CREDITS

Photography by Sheriff's Office staff (unless otherwise noted)

Newsletter by Administrative Services Bureau staff

Dana Lawhorne, Sheriff  
Alexandria Sheriff's Office  
2003 Mill Road  
Alexandria, Virginia 22314  
[www.alexandriava.gov/sheriff](http://www.alexandriava.gov/sheriff)



Like us on Facebook  
[facebook.com/alexandriavasheriff](https://facebook.com/alexandriavasheriff)



Follow us on Twitter  
[@alexvasheriff](https://twitter.com/alexvasheriff)